

July 22, 2003

James City County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission  
York County Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission  
Williamsburg City Council and Planning Commission

Dear Colleagues:

The Regional Issues Committee has been reviewing the status of local government policies related to the appearance of the major road corridors in the Historic Triangle. The Committee has specifically concentrated on Route 199 and the entrance corridors into the City of Williamsburg. Briefings have been presented on public and private sector activities in areas such as signage, landscaping, and architectural design of buildings. The Committee's intent is to identify specific actions that could be taken to improve the appearance of our major entry corridors.

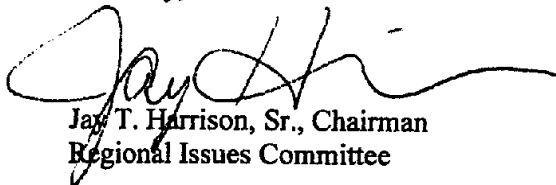
Most recently the Committee has reviewed the standards of all three local jurisdictions for road buffers and landscaping along certain identified entry corridors. While all three jurisdictions do identify certain major corridors for additional efforts to improve appearance, there are significantly different minimum standards among the localities on the size of buffers along these roads, as shown below.

	Residential	Nonresidential
Williamsburg (Greenbelt Road)	50 feet; 75 feet (Rt.199)	50 feet; 75 feet (Rt.199)
James City County (Community Character Corridor)	150 feet	50 feet
York County (Tourist Corridor)	35 feet	35 feet

At its June 24, 2003, meeting the Regional Issues Committee requested that the Chairman write to each jurisdiction requesting that it review its current minimum buffer and landscape standards and insure that the standards provide an adequate level of protection and aesthetic control along the entrance corridors of the Historic Triangle. It was the general opinion of the Committee that a higher minimum standard was probably needed in some instances.

The Committee would be happy to assist in any way requested by local governing bodies or commissions.

Sincerely,



Jay T. Harrison, Sr., Chairman  
Regional Issues Committee

JTH/cdw